

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application. All claims have been rejected in the present Office Action.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the limitations of collecting social information at a web site recited in Claim 1 and collecting data representing a social category at a web site recited in Claims 25-27 were not described in the specification.

In response the referenced Claims have been amended. These Claims now recite “creating an instance of a mapping data structure for a given web site“. The data structure, depicted in Figures by reference numeral 2100, is described throughout the specification with reference to Figures 2 and 3.

The Examiner further rejected Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,539,375 (Kawasaki) in view Yahoo; Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Yahoo and U.S. Patent No. 6,289,353 (Hazlehurst); and Claims 7-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Yahoo “WebQuery: Searching And Visualizing The Web Through Connectivity”, (Nortel).

Claim 1 of the present invention has been amended and now recites “creating at least one instance of a mapping data structure for a web site”; “populating said at least one instance of the mapping data structure by processing requests addressed to said web site”; and “computing an abstract geometric representation of said mapping data structure for facilitating user socialization”.

Kawasaki describes profiling a user according to predefined categories of interest and Yahoo shows categorizing information according to pre-set topics. Kawasaki, Yahoo, or a combination thereof do not teach or describe “computing an abstract geometric representation of said mapping data structure for facilitating user socialization” recited in Claim 1 of the present invention as amended. Similarly, Kawasaki, Yahoo, or a combination thereof do not teach or

describe "displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories in a **visual, geometric pattern**" recited in amended Claims 25-27 of the present invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of amended independent Claims 1 and 25-27 is respectfully requested. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-24, it is submitted that they are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claim 1. Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the application, namely Claims 1-27, are believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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